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and (3) to the change from the sail freighter to the steamboat. These changes taken together brought into existence boats with a larger tonnage, increased the relative importance of capital, and created for the first time a distinct capitalistic class. The owners both of the vessels and of ore, the principal commodity shipped, demanded regular and efficient service. In order to secure this service the independent captain was replaced by a manager or engineer responsible directly to ship owners. To deal effectively with labor, the Lake carriers' association was formed. This organization following the course dictated by expediency has at one time recognized the unions and made wage agreements with them. At another it has made war upon them, using every means known to the employer; it has forced the open shop and finally disrupted the union.

Labor in its losing fight was handicapped by the fact that the laborers because of the nature of the work were irresponsible and inefficient. Wage agreements consequently could not be kept. Neither could a consistent union policy be developed. These factors taken together with the additional facts, that aristocracy in labor existed, i.e., one group would not associate with or fight for another group, and also that agreements could not be reached upon the principles of organization, i.e., trade or industrialism, explain why in the long contest labor was defeated.

The study as a whole represents careful work. The form of presentation is good, the style clear, and the method scientific. The author, however, does not give a clear presentation of the methods of wage bargaining which John R. Commons does so well in his *Labor and administration*. Rather does he portray the struggle for some possible method of adjusting labor difficulties, though the former is what he attempts as stated in the first line of the preface. Care in proof reading would have avoided the following errors: Scariety for scarcity, p. 10, line 27; Agreement for Agreement, p. 75, line 11, also p. 77, line 1; ben for been, p. 80, line 18. These are, however, minor criticisms and should not greatly detract from a meritorious work.

JUDSON F. LEE

Illinois in the fifties. A decade of development, 1851-1860. By Charles Beneulyn Johnson, M.D. (Champaign, Illinois: Flanigan-Pearson company, 1918. 180 p. \$1.25 net)

In this book Dr. Johnson has wavered between the task of writing an intimate body of reminiscences and an attempt to tell the history of the decade he has chosen. This is unfortunate because it mars the many

excellencies of his little volume. In certain chapters he tries to survey the developments in national politics; in them one finds not the spirit of personal recollections but rather that of the post bellum prejudices of a northerner. This is evident in the references to the Mexican war and to other events. It need scarcely be said that they add little to our knowledge of the period. This is even true of the chapter entitled "Slavery and the Lincoln-Douglas debate," although it incorporates a few fragmentary reminiscences of other contemporaries.

Dr. Johnson's picture of social and industrial conditions is surely worth while, although it is marred by a tendency to make generalizations that would apply also, perhaps even better, to the period before 1850. This criticism might have been obviated had it been made clear that the statements were applied to one of the backward rural sections of the state. Certain of the illustrations are the cuts that were used to illustrate Buck's *Illinois in 1818*, which suggests that the author may not have had a keen enough time sense. The author may well have had in mind the neighborhood of his boyhood home, Amity or Pocahontas; this, however, he does not make clear nor does his title suggest it. Indeed, Pocahontas is not mentioned until after the first quarter of the book (p. 52) and then only scattered bits of information are furnished (p. 52, 54, 61, etc.) which might well have been fashioned together into a single picture. Chapter 2 describes Benjamin Jones, "a progressive pioneer," but the reader does not know in what part of Illinois he lived. Chapter 3, "The gold-seekers of the later forties," describes the circumstances of the discovery of gold in California rather than the movement of population from Illinois; the author does follow the journey of his father who met his death shortly after reaching Sacramento, but he takes no notice of the organized movement of gold-seekers. His description of the "village club," the country store, is interesting but gossipy. The chapters on sports and amusements, on the village lyceum, and other intimate glimpses into contemporary social conditions have real merit. It should be evident, therefore, that while this volume includes many of the weaknesses of its kind, it is not without a real value for Illinois history.

ARTHUR C. COLE

With Sam Houston in Texas. By Edwin L. Sabin. [The trail blazers series] (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott and company, 1916. 320 p. \$1.25 net)

This book is addressed to the interest of youthful readers, and for that reason Ernest Merrill, a fictitious boy, is somewhat obviously dragged through its pages, gazing admiringly at the hero and participating in